



GMA News Feb 13

Upcoming events:

Feb 2 nd	Stickfighting 9:00-12:00
Feb 2 nd	Leadership team 1:00-?
Feb 9 th	Demo Team 9:00-10:30
Feb 9 th	Black belt prep 10:30-12:00
Feb 9 th	Capoeira seminar 1:00-4:00
Feb 10 th	TCC push hands seminar, Indy
Feb 15 th	USHF Testing no regular HKD class.
Feb 16 th	FAST Defense Adult Basics 9:00-12:30
Feb 16 th	GMA Red Carpet Night—Movie Premier and buddy night, 6:30 (but get there early)
Feb 23	Demo team 9:00-10:30
Feb 23	Black belt prep 10:30-12:00
March 2 nd	Andre Galvao seminar 1:00-4:00
March 8 th	TTCA testing
March 9 th	Demo Team 9:00-10:30
March 9 th	Black belt prep 10:30-12:00
March 9 th	Stickfighting 1:00-4:00
March 15	TTCA black belt testing
March 16 th	TTCA tournament—Central City, KY
March 23/24 th	Dr. Yang Jwing Ming seminar
March 30	Lil dragons testing
April 6 th	USHF Spring Seminar at GMA!
May 11 th	Annual picnic and break-a-thon

Amanda Miller's Baby Shower

We will be having a baby shower for Mr. Miller and Amanda on February 10th at Squealor's in Mooresville at 2:00 p.m. Please sign up so we have an accurate count of how many to expect. Todd and Amada are registered at Babies R' Us, Bye Bye Baby and Target. If you are unable to attend but would like to drop off a gift we will make sure it is safely delivered.

Congrats to Our New Little Dragon Graduates

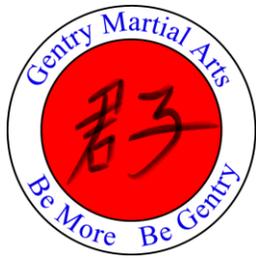
Congrats to Jacob Saucier, Tylynn Secuskie, and Hunter Merida for graduating lil dragons.

Red Carpet Movie Premier Night

Forget all the celebrity sightings during the super bowl. The real A-list is when we have the GMA movie stars come out the next week Feb 16th at 6:30 (camp participants be there no later than 6:00). We will be making a "red carpet" event for our movie camp participants, and the whole school is invited to the premier! Show up a bit early if you want to catch a glimpse of stars arriving. Watch the movie and enjoy popcorn. We will also be showing clips from Mr. Yoshida's movies and another full length feature –Here Comes the Boom—although it wont be as entertaining as our blockbuster release. Families and friends are welcome. Students are encouraged to bring buddies. Please arrive early to help with the Hollywood atmosphere. Parents committee will be decorating in the afternoon prior and would welcome help.

Be Ready to Get your rooms reserved for TTCA tournament!

The hotel information for tournament is now available. Be sure to sign up early before they sell out and be sure to get the group discount rate.



Valentine Passes Coming Soon

Don't forget to look out for our annual Valentine Day Guest Passes to share with your friends. If they bring one in, they get the bonus and you still get the referral credit on your tuition.

Quotes of the Week

It has been a while since we have gone over our focus points—lessons to succeed in martial arts and life in general.

GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:

Nico Inman (2-7)	Dillon Chapell (2-7)	Finnegan Vandewalle (2-10)
Jayden Brooks (2-14)	Keegan Spires (2-14)	Adrian Bambery (2-14)
Owen Selburg (2-20)	Sammy Petraits (2-21)	Kylee Metcalf (2-21)
Kaycee Metcalf (2-21)	Torrey Hansen (2-25)	Amy Law (2-26)

Don't forget GMA website/facebook.

Want to be the first to know when the school closes for weather? Need to double check the special events calendar or pics? Check the GMA website and or facebook group, and sign up for email announcements online.

Training Anniversaries

Collyn Dodge (TKD 10 yrs)	Kaitlyn Nolan (TKD 4 yrs)	Zach Dyer (LD, TKD 4 yrs)
Anthony Tejera (LD, TKD 4 yrs)	Jake Waltz (BJJ 4 yrs)	Frankie Williams (TCC 7 yrs)
Cathy Petraits (TCC 3 yrs)	Josh Roberson (LD, TKD 2yrs)	Clay Thacker (BJJ 2 yrs)
Jaden Zweck (LD 4 yrs)	Miki White (TKD 10 yrs)	Benjamin Rahman (TKD 1 yr)
Jacob Saucier (LD 1 yr)		

This Month in Martial Arts History (selected from "Dates with Destiny" in *Martial Arts Success* by John Corcoran.

Feb 1882 Jigoro Kano opens the Kodokan and becomes the founder of Judo.
Feb 2, 1965 Brandon Lee's (son of Bruce Lee) birthday
Feb 12 1968 Jean Jacques Machado (BJJ pioneer) birthday
Feb 22 1972 Kung Fu debuts on TV and starts a craze.
Feb 26 1988 Bloodsport with Jean-Claude Van Damme is released, inspiring Mr. Sieg and countless others.

GMA—A World of Possibilities.

I just finished a special course that I teach during winter term at DePauw. It discusses how martial arts from around the world reflect the history, culture, and topography of their parent culture. As a martial arts "academic", it is one of the aspects of the martial arts that I find fascinating. Upon reflection, I have been interested in foreign history and culture for a long time. I have taken more courses on Asian history than American. I can remember being in 5th grade and having to do reports on the different states. I found this to be boring and asked if I could do countries instead. Truth be told, this is so I could do a report on South Korea, the birthplace of TKD. In order to do that, I had to write reports about other countries; mostly I picked ones that seemed obscure and never heard of by a 5th grader: Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Luxembourg. My parents have also raised me to be fond of travel, and I have been blessed enough to do some. Understanding history and culture from around the world is an important part of my education and perspective on life. Judging by the test scores, I am not sure that my college students appreciate the importance of it, but I hope our GMA students and parents do.

I realize not all of our students are at an age or are able to travel the world. And while I was a bit of a geek growing up, some of our students might not care that there is actually a language called Luxembourgish. Actually, I didn't remember that



either...I just found it on Wikipedia. So one of the intangible benefits of the martial arts (that I value and is important to GMA) is making our students more worldly under the disguise of having fun and getting fit. We bring the world to them!

We are fortunate to study under a Korean GM who teaches traditional Asian philosophy and culture. The nuances of respect and hierarchy in the martial arts have served me well in dealing with superiors in many a setting and meeting. The terminology gets kids thinking about a foreign language, and I have many anecdotes about students trying to grasp the “foreign” of it. Students learn history and the philosophies of Confucian relationships and yin-yang. While in Korea, I certainly heard many comments from the students that made me smile because I knew their worldview was changing quickly.

Our students have had similar experiences in learning about Filipino, Brazilian, and Chinese culture through our other programs. Our German longsword camp taught about life in medieval Europe. Even our demo team, excuse the pun, has gotten into the act, teaching sarong techniques that come from traditional Indonesia dress.

This month, we have a new opportunity that I am extremely excited to bring to our students. We have scheduled a seminar on the fascinating art of Capoeira—a Brazilian art that has origins in the slave culture of South America. It was based on tribal dances of Africa. It was disguised by being practiced to unique music. Its techniques were developed to compensate for the practitioner having his hands shackled. It supposedly inspired the break dance movement. It is being taught by a Brazilian who can offer current insights into the art. I have no expectation of us getting any good at it, but I am excited to offer this exposure to our students and give them a broader perspective and understanding of an activity they love.

You might ask why this matters. Well, consider an excerpt I just came back across in the leadership book I am currently reading, discussing effective leaders:

What kind of person is qualified for such a demanding task? Leaders who have had a broad range of experiences, who have travelled extensively, have read broadly, who know a wide variety of people, and who have stretched their thinking through education and a mosaic of life experiences are thought to have a good chance of developing compelling and innovative visions.

Our school brings in instructors from around the world, who all realize that martial arts teach more than just techniques. They are all accomplished, successful people who share their life experiences and perspectives. It might be hard to measure the influence of such experiences, but I think it is invaluable, and I hope our students take advantage and appreciate them. We think the world of our students, so we bring the world to them! --BLS